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JOHN M. SLACK
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COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

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House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

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ACTION is assigned to A RA

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

According to published reports you, along with Defense Secretary Harold Brown, made the major decisions resulting in the mission by American military forces to recover and return to the United States the victims of the mass murder-suicide in Guyana. It is further reported that the Office of Management and Budget is "consulting with a number of Federal agencies to try to devise a formula for which ones should share in the cost of the operation."

I have had strong expressions of disapproval from my constituents about the manner in which the United States government inserted itself into this situation, and I am writing you, therefore, to request you advise me as to the justification which was relied upon to make possible the use of appropriated State Department funds. It appears to be established that the "People's Temple" cult owned assets in gold, securities and real estate amounting to perhaps $10 million or more. Can you advise me further as to what steps will be taken to secure a share of these assets for the Federal government to offset the multi-million-dollar cost of the mission to Guyana?

I will appreciate the favor of an early response.

Yours sincerely,

John Slack, M.C.

JS:m

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